IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Pierre CAROL, Marcel KUNTZ, Regis MACHE

Application No.: U.S. National Stage

of PCT/IB99/01719

Filed: April 20, 2001

Docket No.: 109326

For: CDNA SEQUENCE TRANSCRIBING AN MRNA ENCODING THE TERMINAL

OXIDASE ASSOCIATED WITH CAROTENOID BIOSYNTHESIS, AND USES

THEREOF

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 9, 12 and 14 as follows:

9. (Amended) Recombinant DNA according to Claim 7, characterized in that it comprises the elements required to control the expression of the inserted nucleotide sequence, particularly a promoter sequence and a transcription termination sequence.

12. (Amended) Plant cell transformed with a vector according to Claim 10.

14. (Amended) Process for modifying the production of carotenoids in a plant, either by increasing the production of carotenoids, or by reducing or inhibiting the production of carotenoids by the plant, relative to the normal content of carotenoids produced by the plant, said process comprising the transformation of cells of said plants to be transformed with a vector according to Claim 10.